AVATAR

The Last Airbender

BOOK TWO: EARTH
CHAPTER FIVE: "Avatar Day"

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ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT. WILDERNESS CLEARING - DAYBREAK

The kids are asleep at their campsite. Sokka is in a deep sleep with his mouth wide open. A TINY SPIDER crawls to Sokka's top lip, then descends, on a line of silk across Sokka's mouth to his bottom lip. Then it crawls back up to continue building its web. We widen to reveal Momo sitting on Sokka's chest, watching the spider with intense interest.

EXT. NEARBY WILDERNESS - SIMULTANEOUS

In the woods nearby, a group of five mean, hardened soldiers on Komodo Rhinos move surprisingly silently through the brush. These are the ROUGH RHINOS, an elite group of Fire Nation cavalry that resemble a cross between Green Berets and the Texas Rangers. These men are much, much more than your average Fire Nation soldiers. They are agile, mobile, and hostile, living in the wilderness for months at a time and only stopping at villages long enough to spread the Fire Nation reign of terror. They're led by the gruff COLONEL MONGKE, an Avatar version of Teddy Roosevelt meets Rambo, whose quick wits and ruthless tactics make him a formidable opponent. Mongke, the only Firebender in the group, is followed by OGODEI, YEH-LU, KAHCHI, and VACHIR, each of whom carries a different specialized weapon.

EXT. WILDERNESS CLEARING - MOMENTS LATER

The spider has now completed its web across Sokka's mouth -- the web flexes in and out as he exhales and inhales. Momo is mesmerized! As the tiny spider waits, an insect flies in and lands in his web. Momo can't resist. He reaches into Sokka's mouth, grabbing the spider and the bug, and waking Sokka with a start! He sits up, still completely in his sleeping bag.

SOKKA
(STARTLED NOISE, THEN DISGUSTED COUGHING AND SPITTING) What are you doing in my mouth?!

Momo quickly eats the bugs.

MOMO
(CHITTERS)

Suddenly, Momo's ears perk up -- then he jumps on Sokka's head for better reception.

SOKKA
(Momo on head)
Momo, you need to be a little more sensitive to my boundaries.

MOMO
(WARNING CHITTERS)

Aang and Katara wake up. Suddenly, a rustle in the bushes grows louder and louder and their camp is set upon by the Rough Rhinos!

COLONEL MONGKE
Give up! You're completely surrounded!

The rhinos circle the campsite as our gang scrambles to grab whatever they can and get away. Sokka, still in his sleeping bag, inchworms toward Appa -- but one of the riders spears the sleeping bag, pinning it to the ground. Sokka quickly wriggles free, and hops onto Appa.

SOKKA
Come on, come on, come on!

KATARA
My scrolls!

She grabs a satchel full of scrolls. As she runs toward Appa, a rhino lunges at her but she quickly drives it back using Waterbending. Then she climbs onto Appa. Aang climbs on right behind her then notices...

AANG
My staff!

He sees it lying on the ground, in the path of the five circling rhinos. Aang times it just right and does an amazing leaping dive roll, grabbing his staff. He is now on the outside of the circle of rhinos but he does an Airbending leap over their heads, landing back on Appa. Appa takes off leaving the surprised Rough Rhinos in the dust. Sokka looks back at their abandoned campsite.

AANG (cont'd)
Yip, yip.

SOKKA
Wait, my boomerang...

KATARA
There's no time.

SOKKA
(indignant)
Oh, I see -- so there's time to get your scrolls, and time to get your staff, but no time for my boomerang?

KATARA
That's correct.

Sokka folds his arms and makes a grumpy face.

EXT. TRADING KIOSK - LATER THAT MORNING

The group is at a small kiosk store. Aang is in his rice hat disguise.

AANG
Sorry about your boomerang, Sokka.

SOKKA
I feel like I've lost part of my identity. Imagine if you lost your arrow, or if Katara lost her...
(circular hand motions)
...hair loopies.

Katara sympathetically gives him a hug. The KIOSK GUY comes to the window and hands Sokka a bag of groceries.

KIOSK GUY
Here's your produce, ponytail guy.

Sokka sadly accepts the bag, and hangs his head.

SOKKA
(sullen)
I used to be boomerang guy.

Katara pays the kiosk guy, who studies the kids' coins.

KIOSK GUY
(surprised)
Hey, Water Tribe money.

KATARA
I hope that's okay.

KIOSK GUY
So long as it's money.

The kids turn to leave.

KIOSK GUY (cont'd)
Have a nice Avatar Day.

Aang's ears perk up. He suddenly whirls around.

AANG
(intrigued)
Avatar day?

KIOSK GUY
You guys are going to the festival, right?

The kids look at each other.

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. CHIN VILLAGE - LATER

The kids walk into the town of Chin, gawking at an enormous festival taking place in the streets. Aang is still disguised in a hooded robe and rice hat.

AANG
There's a holiday for the Avatar -- who knew?!

KATARA
Look -- they made a giant Kyoshi float.

In the distance, an enormous paper float of Avatar Kyoshi is making its way through the streets.

SOKKA
And here comes Avatar Roku!

Sure enough, a giant Roku float is turning down the same street, slightly behind the Kyoshi float. The kids watch as both Avatar floats stop in the middle of the town square.

AANG
Having a huge festival in your honor is great, but frankly it's just nice to be appreciated.

SOKKA
And it's nice to appreciate their deep-fried festival food.

He bites into some form of Asian doughnut as everyone focuses their attention on the Avatar floats. Katara sees a float of Aang's likeness approaching, and points it out to him.

KATARA
Aang, look!

AANG
That’s the biggest me I’ve ever seen.

Suddenly, Sokka notices a guy with a torch approaching the floats.

SOKKA
Now a torch -- that’s a nice prop. It’s bright, dangerous...
(sniffs)
Smells manly. But I’m not sure I could carry it off...

KATARA
Hey, what’s that guy doing?

The torch guy lights the Kyoshi float on fire. Aang is shocked.

As the Kyoshi float goes up in flames, the torch guy moves on to light the Roku float. The crowd begins chanting.

CROWD
Down with the Avatar! Down with the Avatar!

Off the kids’ horrified reactions.

EXT. MARKETPLACE - THAT MOMENT

We PAN ACROSS a busy marketplace, then the camera stays on a couple who are returning home with a bag full of freshly baked goods. They take a turn down a small side street to their home. Suddenly, the Blue Spirit appears from out of nowhere, masked in his blue bandana. He draws his swords. The couple drop their baked goods and run off SCREAMING. The Blue Spirit picks up their sack and disappears as quickly as he came.

EXT. WOODS HIDEOUT - MINUTES LATER

Zuko is now tucking away his Blue Spirit disguise as he returns to the makeshift hideout he and Uncle have made in the woods. He tosses Uncle his bag of goodies. Uncle raises an eyebrow, suspiciously.

UNCLE
Where did you get these?

ZUKO
What does it matter where they came from?

Zuko sulks off.

UNCLE
(deeply concerned)
Mmm...

Uncle bites into a pastry.

UNCLE (cont'd)
(yummy sound)
Mmm!

The pastry oozes red preserves all over his chin.

EXT. CHIN VILLAGE - CONTINUOUS

The Aang float is now making its way into the center of the village. The crowd continues its angry CHANTING as the torch guy lights the float on fire.

CROWD
Down with the Avatar! Down with the Avatar!

Aang watches in pained disbelief as his likeness goes up in flames. Katara notices his pain and leaps into action, bending water from a nearby trough to extinguish the flames. The float, along with several spectators, is soaked.

ZEALOUS DEMONSTRATOR
That party pooper's ruining Avatar Day!

Aang leaps to the top of the charred float. He throws off his hat and cloak and reveals himself to the mob.

AANG
That party pooper is my friend.

Pure shock washes over the crowd, as they take in the sight of the real Aang, standing on top of his burnt effigy.

MAYOR TONG
It's the Avatar himself!

The villagers back away from Aang in terror. Aang looks puzzled. Sokka, on the other hand, milks their fear.

FEXT. CHIN VILLAGE - CONTINUOUS

Aang watches the crowd, now cowering several yards away.

ZEALOUS DEMONSTRATOR
(terrified)
It’s going to kill us with its awesome Avatar powers!

AANG
No, I’m not. I--

The demonstrator recoils as Aang raises his hand for emphasis.

ZEALOUS DEMONSTRATOR
(SCREAMS)

The cowering mob shoves MAYOR TONG out into the clearing to confront Aang.

MAYOR TONG
(nervously)
I suggest you leave. You’re not welcome here, Avatar.

KATARA
Why not? Aang helps people.

AANG
It’s true. I’m on your side.

MAYOR TONG
I find that hard to swallow, considering what you did to us in your past life. It was Avatar Kyoshi -- she murdered our glorious leader, Chin the Great.

AANG
(aghast)
You think that I... murdered someone?

ANGLE ON: An ugly, toothless, dirty looking man.

UGLY DEMONSTRATOR
We used to be a great society before you killed our leader -- now look at us!

KATARA
Aang would never do something like that -- no Avatar would. And it's not fair for you all to question his honor.

ZEALOUS DEMONSTRATOR
Let's tell her what we think of the Avatar's "honor"! (RASPBERRY SOUND)

Once again, the crowd begins to shake their fists and shout.

AANG
(to crowd)
Give me a chance to clear my name!

Everyone falls silent.

MAYOR TONG
The only way to prove your innocence is to stand trial.

AANG
(strong)
I'll gladly stand trial.

Everyone is taken aback.

MAYOR TONG
You'll have to follow all our rules. That includes paying bail.

AANG
No problem.

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. CHIN VILLAGE PRISON - LATER

Prison bars slam shut in front of Aang's face. WIDEN to reveal he's in jail.

AANG
How was I supposed to know they wouldn't take Water Tribe money?

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. CHIN VILLAGE PRISON - LATER

Sokka and Katara are talking to a dejected Aang through prison bars. Sokka pleads with him.

SOKKA
So some people don't like you, big deal. There's a whole nation of Firebenders who hate you. Now let's bust you out of here.

AANG
I can't.

SOKKA
Sure you can! A little:
(making Airbending sounds)
(HOLLOW WIND WHISTLE) Swish-wish-wish -- Airbending slice!

He does a bad imitation of Airbending moves.

SOKKA (cont'd)
And we're on our way.

KATARA
I think what Master Swish is trying to say is that you're supposed to be out saving the world. You can't do that locked up in here.

AANG
I can't do that with people thinking I'm a murderer, either.
(beat)
I need you guys to help prove my innocence.

SOKKA
How are we going to do that? The crime happened over three hundred years ago.

AANG
(buttering him up)
That's okay, Sokka. For some reason, I thought you were an expert detective...

SOKKA
(falsely modest)
Well... I guess I could be classified as such.

KATARA
(buttery)
Yeah, back home, he was famous for solving the mystery of the missing seal jerky.

SOKKA
Everyone wanted to blame it on a polar leopard, but I figured out it was old man Jarko wearing polar leopard boots. See, a real eight hundred pound polar leopard would have left much deeper tracks... okay, I guess I am pretty good.

AANG
So you'll help me with my case?

Sokka considers for a BEAT.

SOKKA
Fine... but I'm going to need some new props.

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. CHIN VILLAGE PRISON - LATER

Sokka is now wearing a dorky hat. He whips out an odd magnifying glass.

SOKKA
(super serious)
I'm ready.

He holds up a magnifying glass to his face, making his eye appear distortedly huge.

SOKKA (cont'd)
What?

EXT. WOODSY ROAD - DAY

An armored carriage is being drawn by two ostrich-horses. Two ARMED GUARDS drive the carriage.

INT. ARMORED CARRIAGE - CONTINUOUS

A WEALTHY MAN clutches a huge sack of treasure. He hears the sound of someone landing on the roof and looks up. Suddenly, the carriage jars to a stop, causing the wealthy man's fancy hat to fly off. We see the man's scared reaction as he hears the off screen sound of SWORDS CLASHING and a STRUGGLE. He clenches his teeth nervously and clutches the bag tighter. Suddenly, the struggle stops. There is a sound of two distinctive THUDS. There is a long, tense moment of silence as he looks from side to side. Suddenly, a broadsword slices straight down through the roof of the carriage. The top of the carriage is ripped open, revealing the scary figure of the Blue Spirit standing over the man. Hands shaking, the man raises the sack of money up to the Blue Spirit. The Blue spirit grabs the money and takes off.

EXT. CHIN VILLAGE CLIFFSIDE - LATER

Katara and Sokka are following several yards behind Mayor Tong, as he leads them to the outskirts of town -- a cliffside area that has a small temple and a statue of Chin the Great. Sokka is wearing his detective outfit. He strikes an over the top investigative pose with the magnifying glass.

Mayor Tong is waiting for the kids, several yards ahead. He's trying to show them something.

MAYOR TONG
This is the crime scene.

Katara and Sokka approach to see a dainty, heeled footprint -- still petrified in the ground.

MAYOR TONG (cont'd)
This is the footprint of the killer, Kyoshi.

Sokka kneels to inspect it closely.

MAYOR TONG (cont'd)
It was at sunset -- three hundred and seventy years ago today -- that she emerged from the temple and struck down Chin the Great.

He shows reverence to a marble statue in front of him -- it appears to be of a regal man.

MAYOR TONG (cont'd)
After that tragic day, we built this statue to immortalize our great leader. Feel free to appreciate it...

As the Mayor leaves, Sokka continues examining the scene with his weird magnifying glass. He looks closely at the stone on the statue, then looks closely at the stone on the temple. He notices an identical marbling pattern.

SOKKA
This temple and this statue were cut from the same stone. And we know that the statue was built after Chin died.

Katara excitedly jump in.

KATARA
So if they were built at the same time, that means--

SOKKA
Shh! I want to solve it!

He returns back to his master sleuth posture.

SOKKA (cont'd)
...That means Kyoshi never set foot in this temple!

KATARA
That's a big hole in the mayor's story, but it's not enough to prove Aang's innocence.

SOKKA
You're right...

He takes a puff from a long, strange, bubble pipe. It bubbles comically, but Sokka remains completely serious.

SOKKA (cont'd)
We need to go to Kyoshi Island.

KATARA
(re: pipe)
Where'd you get that?

Sokka shoots her a sour look.

INT. CHIN VILLAGE PRISON - DAY

Aang sits in one corner of the cell, WHISTLING to himself. Much of the cell is in shadow and, in fact, completely dark. Out of the darkness comes a voice.

SCARY PRISONER (O.S.)
You got a bald head... some nice tattoos...

Aang looks up as the SCARY PRISONER steps out of the shadows, arms folded. He is huge, bald, and covered in tattoos.

SCARY PRISONER (cont'd)
(intimidating)
You're going to fit in real well around here.

The prisoner CRACKS his knuckles. Aang smiles, nervously.

EXT. KYOSHI ISLAND - DAY

Appa lands with Sokka, Katara, and Momo. The villagers rush to greet them below, and the FOAMING MOUTH GUY shows up and has another one of his fainting spells. The kids hop down from Appa, as KOKO (the little girl from 104) waves her arms excitedly. Suddenly, she stops waving them.

KOKO
Where's Aangy?

KATARA
He couldn't be here, Koko.

The crowd MURMURS with disappointment. The foaming mouth guy gets up, wipes the foam off his mouth, and walks off slightly embarrassed. The Kyoshians begin to disperse, and Katara spots OYAJI.

KATARA (cont'd)
Oyaji, Aang is in jail. The town of Chin says he murdered their leader in a past life.

Sokka points with his pipe for emphasis.

SOKKA
They say it was Kyoshi.

OYAJI
(suddenly outraged)
Kyoshi?! That's crazy talk! I'll take you to her shrine. Maybe something there will help you clear her name.

EXT. KYOSHI VILLAGE - MINUTES LATER

As Oyaji and the kids walk through the village, Sokka glances over at Suki's dojo. It's empty.

SOKKA
So, uh... what's Suki up to? Is she around?

OYAJI
Actually, she and the other warriors left to fight in the war. You kids had a big impact on Suki. She said you inspired her, and she wanted to help change the world.

SOKKA
Oh... well that's great.

Sokka seems a little sad.

INT. KYOSHI SHRINE - SUNSET

Oyaji leads the kids inside the temple, which has been converted into a memorial for Avatar Kyoshi. Several of her belongings are on display, as Sokka and Katara examine them.

OYAJI
This temple was converted into a shrine to Kyoshi herself. The clerics tell us these relics are still connected to her spirit. That's her kimono...

Katara feels the fabric of the kimono.

KATARA
She had exquisite taste.

OYAJI
Please don't touch!

Sokka examines her ornate, bladed fans. Pondering deeply, he pokes them with the stem of his pipe.

SOKKA
These fans... they were her weapons, no?

OYAJI
Also refrain from touching the fans.

Katara is now focused on an old, extremely large pair of boots.

KATARA
These were her boots? Her feet must have been enormous!

OYAJI
(proudly)
The biggest of any Avatar.

KATARA
(having an epiphany)
Wait a minute...

Katara gets a quick FLASH of the dainty footprints at the crime scene.

KATARA (cont'd)
Big feet... little footprints...
There's no way--

Sokka cuts her off with an extremely indignant glare. (If we did daggers shooting out of eyes on this show, they would be.) Katara realizes that Sokka wants to be the detective here.

SOKKA
(not letting it drop)
Special outfit? Hat and pipe?
These things mean anything to you?

KATARA
You're right, I'm sorry.
(graciously deferring)
Please...

Katara rolls her eyes.

SOKKA
(grandly)
Aha!
(MORE)

SOKKA(cont'd)
There’s no way Kyoshi could have made that footprint, and therefore there is nothing linking her to the crime scene!

KATARA
(dryly)
Brilliant, Sokka.

INT. CHIN VILLAGE PRISON - SUNSET

The scary prisoner and a few other intimidating ruffians are now deep into a heart-to-heart discussion with Aang.

SCARY PRISONER
This girl you’re talking about? She’ll come around. You just got to hang in there.

AANG
You think so?

RUFFIANS
(emphatically)
Sure. / Yeah. / You’re a catch.

AANG
I don’t know...

SCARY PRISONER
Hey -- you’re smart, handsome, funny... not to mention you’re the Avatar.

AANG
You guys are great.

SENSITIVE RUFFIAN
Don’t be afraid to tell her how you feel!

INT. KYOSHI SHRINE - SUNSET

Sokka sees something across the room -- hanging on the far wall is a painting. He moves toward it for a better look. In the painting, Kyoshi is addressing a group of her citizens. It’s a jubilant occasion -- there are balloons everywhere (possibly fireworks?) in the painting.

OYAJI
This piece is called “The Birth of Kyoshi”. It was painted at sunrise on the day this island was founded.
(MORE)

OYAJI(cont'd)
Why, it was today, in fact, three hundred and seventy years ago.

Sokka spits out his pipe in shock.

SOKKA
Three hundred and seventy years... Wait! Are you sure it was today?!

OYAJI
Well, seeing how it’s Kyoshi Day... Yes, I’m sure.

SOKKA
(confidently)
This ceremony didn’t take place at sunrise -- it took place at sunset! Look at the shadows...

Katara studies the painting for a beat.

KATARA
They point east, so the sun must have been in the West!

OYAJI
So what?

SOKKA
So if Kyoshi was in this ceremony at sunset, she couldn’t have been committing the crime...
(case closed)
She has an alibi.

EXT. CHIN VILLAGE COURT - NIGHT

The outdoor court is set up in the middle of the town, with a simple wooden platform for the mayor to sit on. Aang, guarded by a BAILIFF, stands near Katara and Sokka. Katara acts as his lawyer.

KATARA
Honorable Mayor, we’ve prepared a solid defense for the Avatar. We did an investigation, and found some very strong evidence.

Aang beams and claps in his shackles.

MAYOR TONG
Evidence? That’s not how our court system works!

AANG
Then how can I prove my innocence?

MAYOR TONG
Simple: I say what happened, and then you say what happened. And then I decide who's right.

For emphasis, the mayor points to himself and then Aang and then back to himself during the above.

MAYOR TONG (cont'd)
That's why we call it "justice" -- because it's just us.

The mayor spreads his hands as if he had just finished a vaudeville act. He is greeted by silence. Sokka blinks a few times. There is a SOLITARY COUGH.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

EXT. CHIN VILLAGE COURT - MINUTES LATER

The entire village of Avatar-haters has gathered around to hear the mayor lay out his case against Aang, who sits nearby wearing shackles. Katara and Sokka watch from the front row of the crowd.

MAYOR TONG
Everyone liked Chin the Great, because he was so great. Then the Avatar showed up and killed him. And that's how it happened.

He sits down on his platform.

BAILIFF
(monotone)
The accused will now present its argument.

Aang looks at his friends uncertainly.

SOKKA
(sotto, to Aang)
You can do it, Aang. Just remember the evidence.

AANG
Right... evidence...
(to court)
Ladies and gentlemen, I'm about to tell you what really happened. And I will prove it -- with facts. Fact number one:

Aang freezes. He can't remember.

SOKKA
(sotto, whispering)
The footprints.

AANG
Oh yeah. You see, I have very large feet.

PAN DOWN to reveal his feet. They're actually quite small. Aang realizes he may have blundered and begins to panic.

AANG (cont'd)
Furthermore: your temple matches your statue.

Aang sees their blank looks and realizes he’s in trouble.

AANG (cont’d)
But I was in a painting at sunset!

Aang regains composure and finishes as confidently as he can.

AANG (cont’d)
So there you have it -- I’m not guilty.

Aang looks back, over his shoulder at Katara and Sokka with an unsure “How’d I do?” look. They supportively nod, and give him giant false grins and thumbs ups.

SOKKA
(still smiling big)
He’s dead.

EXT. WOODS HIDEOUT - THAT MOMENT

Zuko wears a fancy robe and relaxes by the fire, gorging himself on roast boar. Uncle walks up and looks around at the things Zuko has stolen. He picks up a dainty tea pot and quietly examines it.

158A UNCLE 158A
Looks like you did some serious shopping. But where did you get the money?

ZUKO
Do you like your new tea pot?

Uncle nods slowly.

UNCLE
To be honest with you, the best tea tastes delicious whether it comes in a porcelain pot or a tin cup.

Uncle crouches beside Zuko.

UNCLE (cont’d)
I know we’ve had some difficult times lately -- we’ve had to struggle just to get by -- but it’s nothing to be ashamed of. There is a simple honor in poverty.

ZUKO
There’s no honor for me without the Avatar.

Uncle shakes his head.

UNCLE
Zuko... (SIGHS) Even if you did capture the Avatar, I'm not so sure it would solve our problems. Not now.

Zuko closes his eyes. He lets his head fall, despondent.

ZUKO
Then there is no hope at all.

Uncle grabs him urgently by the shoulders.

UNCLE
No, Zuko! You must never give in to despair! Allow yourself to slip down that road and you surrender to your lowest instincts. In the darkest times, hope is something you give yourself. That is the meaning of inner strength.

Zuko looks up into Uncle's eyes for a beat -- did what Uncle said get through to him?

ZUKO
(ANGRY PUSHING AWAY SOUND)

Zuko pushes him away and storms off.

EXT. CHIN VILLAGE COURT - MOMENTS LATER

Aang is now absent. Katara addresses the court.

KATARA
Mayor Tong -- I'd like for the court to hear one last testimony...

MAYOR TONG
I've already told you. It's just me and the accused you can't call any witnesses.

KATARA
This isn't just any witness. I'm going to call Avatar Kyoshi herself!

The crowd MURMURS in astonishment. The mayor glares at Katara, as if he's not sure she's serious.

Katara nods and motions to the bailiff, who escorts Aang out from behind a screen. To everyone's befuddlement, Aang is painted in Kabuki makeup and wearing Kyoshi's oversized clothes! The spectators BUZZ in astonishment.

SOKKA
(to Katara)
What are you doing?!

KATARA
(to Sokka)
Well, she is Aang's past life... maybe wearing her stuff will trigger something.

SOKKA
(nods solemnly)
I do believe in the power of stuff.

Everyone looks at Aang expectantly. Nothing happens.

MAYOR TONG
This is a mockery of Chin law!

KATARA
Please, if you could just wait one more second. I'm sure Kyoshi will be here.

She looks at Aang hopefully. He blushes at her and shrugs.

AANG
(bad falsetto)
Hey everybody, Avatar Kyoshi here.

MAYOR TONG
This is ridiculous! For the murder of Chin the Great, this court finds the Avatar--

An EARTHQUAKE hits! When the dust clears, standing in Aang's place is Lady KYOSHI! There is a palpable hush, and we cut between various characters' reactions to this unusual development. Katara and Sokka exchange a triumphant look. All eyes are on Kyoshi.

KYOSHI
I killed Chin the Conqueror.

Katara and Sokka react to this news. Everyone else remains silent out of fear of Kyoshi.

EXT. CHIN VILLAGE CLIFFSIDE - SUNSET - FLASHBACK

Kyoshi narrates as a large map of the Earth Kingdom appears on the screen. Arrows (or whatever works best, see note) begin moving from the Chin village to all regions of the Earth Kingdom. (NOTE: This should bring to mind the map with the spreading Fire Nation threat that we see in the opening credits.)

KYOSHI (V.O.)
A horrible tyrant, Chin was expanding his army to all corners of the continent.

We are now at the crime scene, but instead of a cliffside, it is the neck of a large peninsula of land jutting out into the ocean. The temple and the statue from the present are not there -- there is a temple, but it is the shrine from Kyoshi Island. (Confused? Read on.)

KYOSHI (cont'd)
When they came to the neck of the peninsula where we lived, he demanded our immediate surrender.

Kyoshi walks out of the temple in a fury. Standing just a few yards away is Chin the Conqueror, who is much smaller and daintier than his statue. Behind him are several Earth Kingdom soldiers poised to attack.

KYOSHI (V.O.) (cont'd)
I warned him that I would not sit passively while he took our home... But he did not back down.

Kyoshi stands firm as Chin threatens her with an Earthbending pose. We get a CLOSE-UP of his tiny feet sinking into the ground as he musters his Earthbending energy. This is the infamous footprint from the cliffside crime scene. With a crazy combination of Earthbending and fan blasting, Kyoshi causes the ground they are standing on to separate. With Kyoshi and her village on one side of the fault, and Chin on the other, the earth begins to split!

KYOSHI (V.O.) (cont'd)
On that day, we split from the mainland.

Chin stands defiantly at the fault line, watching the two land masses continue to split. His troops abandon him as water and earth begin to pour into the chasm in front of him. Suddenly, the ground beneath Chin's front foot gives way, and he falls off the edge of the newly formed cliffs.

He SCREAMS as he disappears into the chasm, buried by the rushing water and earth.

We see the island continue to move further and further from the cliffside, pushed by Kyoshi's awesome display of Avatar power.

EXT. CHIN VILLAGE COURT - PRESENT

Kyoshi wraps up her testimony to the stunned audience.

KYOSHI
I created Kyoshi Island so my people could be safe from invaders.

Kyoshi slowly begins to disappear, leaving Aang standing in her place, still wearing her outfit.

AANG
(confused)
So... what just happened?

KATARA
Uhh... you kind of confessed. Sorry.

MAYOR TONG
And I find you guilty!

Aang and his friends react in shock. Momo covers his eyes. The people of Chin CHEER wildly.

MAYOR TONG (cont'd)
Bring out the Wheel of Punishment.

EXT. WOODS HIDEOUT - THAT MOMENT

Uncle straightens up the camp, whistling a tune.

UNCLE (O.S.)
(WHISTLING)

Zuko returns from wherever he went -- he looks calm.

ZUKO
Uncle, I've thought a lot about what you said.

UNCLE
You did? Good, good.

ZUKO
It's helped me realize something.

A beat.

ZUKO (cont'd)
We no longer have anything to gain by travelling together.
(beat)
I need to find my own way.

Uncle doesn't respond at all. Zuko picks up a bag of his stuff, and turns to leave.

UNCLE
Wait!

Zuko stops. Uncle un-tethers the ostrich horse, and leads it to Zuko. It is a final gesture of giving. Zuko takes the reins, and climbs on. Uncle watches Zuko gallop off.

UNCLE (cont'd)
(SIGHS)

He looks around the campsite, pensively -- empty nest. He sits down, and pours himself a cup of tea. He holds it, about to drink it. But he is in no mood, even for tea -- he puts it down, and then lies back.

EXT. CHIN VILLAGE COURT - PRESENT

The bailiff brings out a large vertical wheel, divided into several pie piece sections with drawings on them. Each of the drawings depicts a different form of punishment: a man being eaten by a bear, a noose, a spiked iron maiden-like coffin, a vat of boiling liquid, etc. Aang stares at it with an odd mix of horror and confusion.

BAILIFF
(monotone)
The accused will now spin the Wheel of Punishment to determine his sentence.

Aang looks at his friends. Sokka urgently mimes the 'walking away' signal with two fingers, then mimes flying away. Aang turns away from Sokka and looks up at the mayor, resolved.

AANG
I said I would face justice, so I will.

He grabs the wheel and spins it mightily. The morbid drawings spin round and round as the crowd cheers.

ZEALOUS DEMONSTRATOR
Come on, ‘torture machine’!

UGLY DEMONSTRATOR
‘Eaten by bears’!

DEMONSTRATOR #3
‘Razor pit’!

KATARA
‘Community service’! Please stop on ‘community service’!

Aang is on the edge of his seat as the wheel slowly begins to stop... It passes a drawing of a man swimming away from a sea monster, and lands on the vat of boiling liquid.

BAILIFF
(monotone)
Looks like it’s ‘boiled in oil’.

The crowd cheers. The kids exchange horrified looks. But before they have a chance to grieve, they hear the RUMBLE of Komodo-rhino feet galloping toward them. Everyone turns to see Mongke and his Rough Rhinos circling the villagers and igniting a fire wall around them.

MONGKE
We’ve come to claim this village for the Fire Lord. Now show me your leader so I may...

He looks over at Vachir, who chops a pumpkin (or similar gourd) in half with his kwan dao.

MONGKE (cont’d)
...Dethrone him.

The townspeople cower like frightened little kitty-cats. They all turn their sights on the mayor.

ZEALOUS DEMONSTRATOR
That’s him over there!

The demonstrator points to the mayor who is poking his head out from behind the wheel of justice. The Rough Rhinos advance toward the mayor, who turns to Aang.

MAYOR TONG
You! Avatar! Do something!

AANG
Gee, I'd love to help, but I'm supposed to be boiled in oil...

Sweating profusely, Mayor Tong nudges the wheel of punishment over to the next segment on the wheel -- "COMMUNITY SERVICE".

MAYOR TONG
There -- 'Community Service'! Now, serve our community and get rid of those rhinos!

Aang nods in appreciation to the mayor, and then immediately snaps into action. He throws off Kyoshi's robe but he still has on the makeup and head piece. Aang jumps down in front of Vachir's rhino, then using Kyoshi's fans he blasts Vachir off his rhino into a nearby building.

There is a cool fight in which we see Aang, Katara and Sokka take on the formidable Rough Rhinos. We should see awesome displays of Aang's and Katara's bending and some of Sokka's fighting ingenuity. During the fight, the cowardly townspeople flee and watch from the safety of their hiding places. We should also see Mongke use his Firebending against Aang, and also to destroy some buildings. (NOTE: The Rough Rhino's fight "Rough Rhino" style -- a little dirty, and distinct from the normal Fire Nation soldier fighting style. We should also see the rhinos fighting with their horns and tails.)

Yeh-lu (the beastmaster of the group) is sicking his rhino on Katara, who is still trying to put out the rest of the fires. The beast charges her, but she bends a slick sheet of ice in front of the rhino, causing it to skid out of control and crash into a silo. The rhino pulls itself out of the silo, now even more pissed off. It whips its tail at Katara, knocking her back head over heels.

Aang sees Katara is in trouble. Using his Airbending, he rips the Wheel of Justice off its axis and sends it flying at Yeh-Lu like a discus. It knocks the rider out, sending him slouching forward in his saddle.

Sokka stares down Mongke, who charges toward him on his rhino. Sokka readies his club, but appears to be losing his nerve as Mongke's rhino gains speed. At the last moment, Aang comes whirling into frame and blindsides Mongke with a super-concentrated fan blast, which knocks Mongke upside-down underneath his rhino (since he's still strapped to the saddle). While hanging underneath his rhino, Mongke attempts to attack Aang with Firebending. But the fire blasts frighten his rhino, who begins galloping in circles frantically.

Mongke eventually rights himself and looks around to survey the situation. Several of his crew dangle from their saddles or are otherwise incapacitated.

MONGKE
Rough Rhinos -- to the town!

As the rhinos run out of town, a bag of stolen goods falls off one of the saddles. Sokka sees his boomerang poking out.

SOKKA
Boomerang! You do always come back!

EXT. CHIN VILLAGE - LATER

Everyone is celebrating again, this time in honor of Aang.

MAYOR TONG
From now on, we'll celebrate a new Avatar Day, in honor of the day Avatar Aang saved us from the Rough Rhino invasion.

Sokka looks skeptically at a bowl of raw dough.

SOKKA
What is <u>this</u>?

MAYOR TONG
That's our new festival food -- un-fried dough. May we eat it and be reminded of how on this day, the Avatar was not boiled in oil!

The crowd cheers. Sokka, Aang, and Katara each take small bites of the dough, and force themselves to swallow it politely.

KATARA
Happy Avatar Day, everyone.

SOKKA
This is by far the worst town we've ever been to.

FADE OUT.

<u>END OF SHOW</u>